

84. (New) The apparatus of claim 82, further comprising a tissue piercing element extending for enabling the housing to penetrate tissue.

85. (New) The apparatus of claim 83, further comprising a drawstring connected to the collection member for closing the tissue collection member.

86. (New) A surgical method for excising a tissue mass comprising:

providing a housing having a distal portion and a longitudinal axis and a cutting loop and tissue containment bag in the housing;

advancing the cutting loop and the tissue collection member distally from the housing toward the tissue mass, the step of advancing the cutting loop distally expands the loop so a transverse dimension of the cutting loop exceeds a transverse dimension of the elongated housing, and the step of advancing the tissue collection member distally from the housing moves a distally facing opening of the tissue collection member in a distal direction and expands the opening to a transverse dimension exceeding the transverse dimension of the elongated housing.

87. (New) The method of claim 87, further comprising pulling a drawstring to close the tissue collection member.

REMARKS

By this amendment claims 81-87 have been added. Claims 56-80 remain in this application.

Prompt and favorable consideration of claims 56-87 of the present application is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned should the Examiner believe it would expedite prosecution.

Dated: 1/23/03

Respectfully submitted,
By: Neil D. Gershon
Neil D. Gershon
Reg. No. 32,225
Attorney for Applicant

Rex Medical
2023 Summer St., Suite 2
Stamford, CT. 06905
203 348-0377